

agricultural exports. We have a fertile State with some of the richest and most productive soil in the world. And we use this resource to provide the safest food supply in the world.

This week I am asking Iowans to celebrate our rich heritage of agricultural production; but I also want us to look with anticipation to the future of agriculture, value-added agriculture, and our youth. Iowa agriculture is no longer just about growing commodities that we ship away by truck, train, or barge. Farmers in western Iowa have realized that if we do all of our business this way our small towns and cities will lose its youth, a very precious resource.

As I look at the youth of my district, I want them to have all the benefits of growing up in a farming community. And I want to see them in our communities making a difference, choosing to raise their families in western Iowa for years to come. There is no better place if we can continue to be innovative in agricultural development.

Our farmers and community leaders have led the charge to develop this new generation of agriculture because we think differently in Iowa. Let us use National Agriculture Week to thank them not only for rich heritage of agriculture production but for looking to the future and building a foundation for a new rural western Iowa.

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#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND STOP VIOLENCE WEEK

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand this morning to commemorate National Women's History Month and Stop Violence Week. This year's theme is Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility.

We are delighted, if you will, to reflect upon the history that women have made in the United States, but we also recognize that we must stand against violence and sexual assault. We know that both sexual and domestic violence and victims fear reporting is one of the greater challenges of women today in America.

In my State of Texas, nearly 2 million adult Texans, almost 13 percent of the State population, have been sexually assaulted. This is number one in the minds of many women. In Texas, every 2 minutes someone is sexually assaulted, and 2 women are killed each week by their intimate partner, and approximately 31 percent of sexual assault victims reported that a family member also had been sexually assaulted. An estimate of 82 percent of rapes and sexual assaults go unreported because of shame, fear, and hurt and anger, and nearly 80 percent of those raped know the person who raped them.

We realize in working with the Texans Against Sexual Assault and the Texas Council on Family Violence that we have a challenge before us.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saluting women for the progress they have made, but also reminding us as we work towards this very challenging problem, we must also include the women of Iraq who need to have their rights protected along with the children of Iraq as well.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, there are still some asking why Congress added a prescription drug benefit for seniors under Medicare. The reason is simple. Before we passed this law, the Medicare program operated like it was still back in 1965, when surgeries and hospital stays, rather than prescription drugs, were the primary means of treating and managing disease. Today, prescription medications not only treat illness, they can prevent them.

Prior to the changes in law, Medicare would pay an average of \$5,000 for a person's hospitalization for heart failure, for instance, but not pay the \$67 per month for Lipitor which is a cholesterol-lowering drug which can prevent heart failure. This is bad medicine and that is why we needed to add a prescription drug benefit.

Mr. Speaker, adding a benefit to Medicare was an important first step for providing seniors with quality and affordable health care. The benefit is entirely voluntary. The senior who does not want to take the benefit, they do not have to.

The prescription drug benefit is simple. It provides seniors relief from the high cost of prescription drugs, and it focuses that relief on those who need it most. Those who have low income, 12 million seniors get the benefit for the low-income seniors and those with high drug costs who can benefit from the new catastrophic insurance benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the new Medicare law provides seniors a choice and control with their drug plans, and it is good for our seniors.

#### PAYING THE DEBT OF HONOR

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, we are told if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. And today, appropriately, we will commend and pay the debt of honor that we owe to American forces, our allies, and the brave people of Iraq in the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom begun one year ago.

But, sadly, we do so against the backdrop of tragedy and retreat amidst an ally in Europe, and so as we cele-

brate the victory in Iraq today, let our enemies nonetheless hear this today, Mr. Speaker, that this President, this Congress, and the good people of the home of the brave will never cower, will never relent, and will never retreat in the war on terror until the threat of terrorism is lifted from our people and the people of the free world, so help us God.

#### HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, in the historic Medicare prescription drug bill, Congress created health savings accounts to give individuals greater choice over their health care decisions, radically expand access to health care, and drive down rising costs.

According to the National Association of Health Underwriters, one of the most important ways to address the rising cost is through encouraging purchasers of health insurance to become better consumers. HSAs will do that.

HSAs are providing real savings. A family of four in my district used to pay \$532 a month for health care and now pays only \$245 a month after establishing a HSA plan.

HSAs will give Americans more choices, better access to health care, and empower them to save money.

#### QADDAFI WANTS TO BE ON THE WINNING SIDE

(Mr. CHOCOLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, later today we are going to have a debate about a resolution of Iraq, and we will hear a lot of debate about whether America is safer because of our successes in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, there really is no debate, and I saw the proof with my own eyes when I recently traveled to Libya and met with Muammar Qaddafi, and I heard Muammar Qaddafi say with my own ears that he did not want to follow the path of Saddam Hussein and that is why he had decided to dismantle his weapons of mass destruction and abandon supporting terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle do not understand that we are winning the war on terror, but Muammar Qaddafi understands it perfectly clear, and he wants to be on the winning side.

#### SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Columbus did not discover the trade route,